

This reviewer leaves the book with two distinct impressions. First is the idea that man is the product of his environment and has no ability to perceive how to behave contrary to environmental influences, much less discern right behavior from what is wrong. It's determinism at its rawest and demeans the human condition. It leaves no room for rational nor volitional acts, the touchstones of the human being (pages 43a, 43b, 44, 45, 49, 77, 88, 90, 98, 99, 100).

Secondly, the theme (mostly explicit) continues throughout this book that social norms are an inhibition to the creativity of the person. Eisenman repeatedly alludes to the interference with individuality by society norms which creates a stagnant and personally demeaning psychological environment for the person (pages 32, 54, 57, 60, 69, 70, 99).

Eisenman must realize that social norms (especially mores) are necessary for the survival of any society. These are universal to all cultures. Anarchy begins within the undisciplined person and then spreads to the society. Rather than condemning norms (and religious values) as the cause of our problems, Eisenman needs to reflect on the fact that with the diminution of our American value system (the

Judeo-Christian system) a generation of decay has been established within the key social institutions which are mandated for the survival of any society. The institutions of family, education, government and religion have all suffered, and so has society, as they have not been allowed to perform their most vital functions.

It is a fairly universal maxim in sociology that man is guided by his rational nature and not instinct. It is the rational nature which creates social norms and culture. It is the cultural norms that guide and teach the younger generation to a state of responsible independence. This is how individuals and society survive. Even the "ignorant" tribesman realized this. But, we modern and more "intelligent" social engineers know better. And so we treat the symptom and allow the disease to exacerbate itself. As a prominent clergyman of a few decades past once remarked, "There is nothing new happening in the world, it is old things happening to new people".

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